

## Using /etc/skel

This tip shows you how to use /etc/skel to ensure that all new users on your system get the same initial settings.

The /etc/skel directory is the directory used by useradd to create the default settings in a new user's home directory.

To change the location of /etc/skel, edit /etc/default/useradd.

### Code Listing 1

```
# useradd defaults file
GROUP=100
HOME=/home
INACTIVE=-1
EXPIRE=
SHELL=/bin/bash
SKEL=/etc/skel
```

Typically files included in /etc/skel are .rc files for shell initialization, but you could also include a public\_html directory, a custom dircolors file, or anything else.

### Code Listing 2

```
% ls -A /etc/skel
.bash_profile .bashrc .maildir .screenrc .tcsh.config
```

For more information on customizing /etc/skel see man useradd.

From <http://www.gentoo.org/news/en/gwn/20031222-newsletter.xml>

```
image:rdf newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rdf.png (null)
|
image:rss newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rss.png (null)
|
image:Atom newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/atom.png (null)
- Powered by
image:LeopardCMS //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/leopardcms.png (null)
- Running on
image:Gentoo //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/gentoo.png (null)
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Copyright 2004-2020 Sascha Nitsch Unternehmensberatung GmbH
image:Valid XHTML1.1 //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/xhtml.png (null)
:
image:Valid CSS //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/css.png (null)
:
image:buttonmaker //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/buttonmaker.png (null)
- Level Triple-A Conformance to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 -
- Copyright and legal notices -
Time to create this page: ms
```

```
<!--  
image:system status display / /status/output.jpg (null)  
-->  
bodyloaded();
```